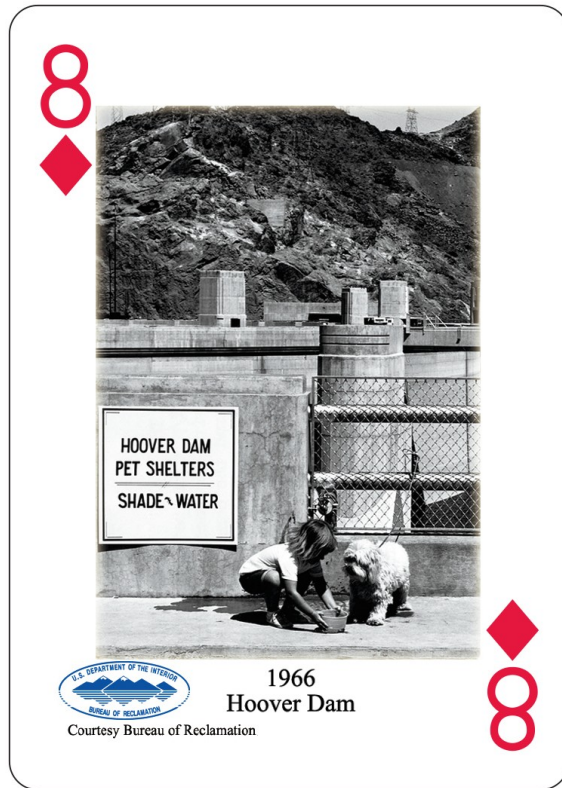


Hoover Dam National Historic Landmark

Tourism at Hoover Dam and Lake Mead



When construction of Hoover Dam was authorized in 1928, the Secretary of the Interior recognized the public would want to view construction of the dam and that the reservoir that would be created held significant recreation potential. At the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service entered into an agreement in the 1930s to provide for the development of tourism and recreation facilities at Hoover Dam and Lake Mead, a partnership that continues to this day.

Between 1931 and 1935, there were two observation points from which visitors could watch the construction activities. Reclamation designed a number of viewing areas into the roads to the dam, and to accommodate visitors' needs, the dam's design included viewing platforms, elevators, utility towers with public restrooms, ticket booths, and a Nurses' Station and Rangers' Station. In the 1940s an Exhibit Building was erected near the dam's Nevada abutment.

Tourism increased substantially in the 1950s and 1960s. To accommodate families with pets the Las Vegas Humane Society provided shade shelters and potable water at the Arizona Spillway Parking Lot. Pets are not permitted on the dam today because of the traffic and large number of visitors.

For more information on Hoover Dam please visit:

<https://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam/>

